



## NEWS RELEASE

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor  
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### ***Kernan announces grant to encourage women and minorities to pursue careers in building trades***

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Today, Gov. Joe Kernan announced a \$450,000 Incumbent Worker Training grant that will benefit up to 150 women, minorities and disadvantaged workers interested in pursuing careers in the building trades.

The grant, which was awarded to the Indiana Plan for Equal Employment, helps to provide pre-apprenticeship training that will prepare participants for careers in the construction industry. Established in 1970, the statewide program is locally driven and designed to increase the number of women and minorities in the building trades and apprenticeship programs.

“In the next several years the construction industry in Indiana will see some substantial growth, and offering a well-trained, readily available workforce is imperative if we are to meet that expected demand,” Kernan said. “The Indiana Plan opens the door to construction careers and o and we are proud to support its efforts to encourage women and minorities to pursue jobs in these fields.”

Participants from around the state will be taught basic construction skills through coursework offered by Ivy Tech State College, including applied construction mathematics, spatial relations and mechanical reasoning. After training is completed, participants are placed with an employer in an U.S. Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training approved program where they will work and learn from journey-level workers.

“Through the years, the state of Indiana has been very supportive of our program that introduces a better way of life to disadvantaged workers,” said Michael Elder, Executive Director of the Indiana Plan. “We look forward to another successful year and appreciate the State’s commitment.”

State law requires the Indiana Department of Workforce Development to allocate \$450,000 each year to the Indiana Plan from the Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) fund. Since its inception, the Indiana Plan has received \$1.35 million to train 450 Hoosiers.

All Indiana businesses are eligible to apply for IWT grants. The grants are designed to create a world-class workforce in Indiana through continuous improvement to the skill levels of Hoosier workers.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state’s 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, call 1-800-465-416 or visit the web site at [www.workforce.IN.gov](http://www.workforce.IN.gov).

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